

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method for sharing a portion of a sharer display with a viewer display, the method
2 comprising:
3 determining a sharing area defining a portion of the sharer display to be shown on the
4 viewer display, the sharing area being responsive to a display allocation for the viewer display
5 and a position of a cursor in the sharer display; and
6 showing the portion of the sharer display on the viewer display.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display;
3 moving the sharing area to define a different portion of the sharer display in response to
4 the new position of the cursor; and
5 showing the different portion of the sharer display on the viewer display.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the detecting comprises detecting an average position of
2 the cursor in the sharer display during a predetermined time interval.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the moving of the sharing area comprises moving the
2 sharing area to define a different portion of the sharer display if the new position of the cursor in
3 the sharer display is outside the sharing area.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of a sharing area comprises
2 determining a common area for a plurality of display allocations.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising showing a sharing frame on the sharer display,
2 the sharing frame indicating the perimeter of the portion of the sharer display showing on the
3 viewer display.

- 1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the sharing frame has a rectangular shape.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the color of the sharing frame is selected to contrast with
2 a background color of the sharer display.
- 1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the color of the sharing frame is selected to contrast with
2 a feature in the sharer display.
- 1 10. The method of claim 6 further comprising:
2 detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display; and
3 showing the sharing frame at a new position in the sharer display in response to the new
4 position of the cursor.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the detecting comprises detecting an average position of
2 the cursor in the sharer display during a predetermined time interval.
- 1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein the showing the sharing frame at a new position
2 comprises showing the sharing frame at a new position if the new position of the cursor in the
3 sharer display is outside the sharing frame.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of a sharing area comprises
2 determining a largest common dimension for a plurality of display allocations.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising polling a viewing computer to determine the
2 display allocation.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 further comprising periodically repeating the polling of the
2 viewing computer to determine an updated sharing area.

1 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving updated allocation data from a
2 viewing computer, the updated allocation data being transmitted in response to a change in the
3 display allocation.

1 17. A computer program product for use with a computer system having a sharing computer
2 and a viewing computer, the sharing computer having a sharer display and the viewing computer
3 having a viewing display, the computer program product comprising a computer useable medium
4 having embodied therein program code comprising:

5 program code for determining a sharing area defining a portion of the sharer display to be
6 shown on the viewer display in response to a display allocation for the viewer display and a
7 position of a cursor in the sharer display; and

8 program code for showing the portion of the sharer display on the viewer display.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein the program code embodied in the
2 computer useable medium further comprises:

3 program code for detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display;

4 program code for moving the sharing area to define a different portion of the sharer
5 display in response to the new position of the cursor; and

6 program code for showing the different portion of the sharer display on the viewer
7 display.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising program code for showing
2 a sharing frame on the sharer display, the sharing frame indicating the perimeter of the portion of
3 the sharer display showing on the viewer display.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19 further comprising:
2 program code for detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display; and
3 program code for showing the sharing frame at a new position in the sharer display in
4 response to the new position of the cursor.

1 21. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for use with a computer system
2 having a sharing computer and a viewing computer, the sharing computer having a sharer display
3 and the viewing computer having a viewer display, the computer data signal comprising:
4 program code for determining a sharing area defining a portion of the sharer display to be
5 shown on the viewer display in response to a display allocation for the viewer display and a
6 position of a cursor in the sharer display; and
7 program code for showing the portion of the sharer display on the viewer display.

1 22. The computer data signal of claim 21 wherein the computer data signal further
2 comprises:
3 program code for detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display;
4 program code for moving the sharing area to define a different portion of the sharer
5 display in response to the new position of the cursor; and
6 program code for showing the different portion of the sharer display on the viewer
7 display.

1 23. The computer data signal of claim 21 further comprising program code for showing a
2 sharing frame on the sharer display, the sharing frame indicating the perimeter of the portion of
3 the sharer display showing on the viewer display.

1 24. The computer data signal of claim 23 further comprising:
2 program code for detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display; and
3 program code for showing the sharing frame at a new position in the sharer display in
4 response to the new position of the cursor.

1 25. A computing system for sharing a portion of a sharer display with a viewer display, the
2 computing system comprising:
3 a sharer processor for determining a sharing area defining a portion of the sharer display
4 to be shown on the viewer display in response to display allocation data for the viewer display
5 and position data for a cursor in the sharer display; and
6 a shared data generator for providing shared display data to the viewer display.

1 26. The computing system of claim 25 further comprising a viewer processor in
2 communication with the sharer processor to receive the shared display data and provide viewer
3 display data to the viewer display.

1 27. The computing system of claim 26 further comprising the viewer display.

1 28. The computing system of claim 25 wherein the sharer processor detects a new position of
2 the cursor in the sharer display and moves the sharing area to define a different portion of the
3 sharer display in response to the new position of the cursor and wherein the shared data generator
4 provides shared display data responsive to the different portion of the sharer display.

1 29. The computing system of claim 25 wherein the sharer processor determines a location of
2 a sharing frame to be shown on the sharer display.

1 30. The computing system of claim 29 wherein the sharer processor determines a new
2 location of the sharing frame in response to a new position of the cursor in the sharer display.